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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 TRSE-00 /086 W
----------052446 252212Z /73
R 252055Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4291
INFO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2143

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, DR
SUBJECT: GODR FORMALLY INVITES OAS TO SEND ELECTION OBSERVERS

REF: SANTO DOMINGO 1440

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY JIMENEZ INFORMED THE PRESS LAST EVENING THAT HE HAD GIVEN LETTER TO OAS SECGEN ORFILA, HERE FOR SCCN MEETING, FORMALLY REQUESTING DISPATCH OF OAS MISSION TO DOM REP TO OBSERVE MAY 16 NATIONAL ELECTIONS. JIMENEZ SAID HE WAS ACTING ON ORDERS FROM PRESIDENT BALAGUER, WHOSE DESIRE IS TO HAVE "FREE AND DEMOCRATIC" WINDUP TO CURRENT ELECTORAL PROCESS.

2. OAS SOURCES HERE CONFIRM RECEIPT OF GODR "NOTE" REQUESTING AN OBSERVER TEAM. DOCUMENT HANDED TO ORFILA LAST NIGHT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY AFTER ORFILA HAD SAID, IN ANSWER TO QUESTION AT EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT OAS HAD BEEN INFORMALLY APPROACHED BY GODR TO ASCERTAIN POSSIBILITIES FOR SENDING OF OBSERVERS. OAS SOURCES SAID THIS CAME IN FORM OF JIMENEZ-OFILA TELEPHONE CONVERSATION LAST WEEK.

3. ORFILA, SAYING DURING PRESS CONFERENCE HE AWAITED FORMAL GODR REQUEST FOR OBSERVERS, ADDED THAT AS SOON AS HE
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GOT IT IN WRITING, HE WOULD SUBMIT IT TO OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL. COUNCIL, HE CONTINUED, WOULD TAKE UP PETITION AS PRIORITY MATTER IN SPECIAL SESSION. ORFILA ADDED HE WAS CERTAIN OBSERVERS WHO CAME WOULD BE RESPECTED HEMISPHERE PERSONALITIES.

4. OAS SECGEN EXPLAINED OBSERVER PROCESS AFTER SUBJECT

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CAME UP IN HIS APRIL 24 PRESS CONFERENCE. HE NOTED OAS HAD SENT THREE-MAN OBSERVER TEAM, INCLUDING FORMER DE FACTO PRESIDENT OF THE DOM REP, DONALD REID CABRAL, TO LAST MONTH'S ELECTION IN COSTA RICA. ORFILA QITE UP-BEAT ABOUT PROSPECTS OAS PERM COUNCIL WOULD APPROVE GODR PETITION, ALTHOUGH HE SEEMED TO AVOID MAKING FIRM COMMITMENT ON BEHALF OF PERM COUNCIL.

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES, PRESUMABLY JIMENEZ, ALSO BACK-GROUNDED PRESS LAST EVENING TO EFFECT ARRANGEMENTS FOR OBSERVERS ALL BUT COMPLETE, SAYING TEAM OF THREE OUTSTANDING PERSONS OF ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE WOULD BE HERE BEFORE MAY 16.

6. COMMENT: FORMAL REQUEST TO OAS CORRESPONDS WITH BALAGUER'S STATEMENT TO AMBASSADOR HURWITCH (REFTEL) THAT HE WOULD INVITE THAT BODY TO WITNESS ELECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS REPEATED PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT MAY 16 AFFAIR WOULD BE OPEN AND CLEAN. THIS WAS NOTED IN LISTIN DIARIO EDITORIAL THIS MORNING, WHICH EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION WITH THIS FORMAL "TESTIMONY" OF COUNTRY'S RATHER RECENT DEMOCRATIC VOCATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780420/aaaaapzb.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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